

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7000

To require any eligible telecommunications carrier receiving universal service support for the provision of services for rural, insular, and high cost areas to offer automatic roaming services to any technically compatible carrier upon request.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 23, 2008

Mr. WAXMAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To require any eligible telecommunications carrier receiving universal service support for the provision of services for rural, insular, and high cost areas to offer automatic roaming services to any technically compatible carrier upon request.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Universal Roaming
5 Act of 2008”.

1 **SEC. 2. ROAMING REQUIREMENTS FOR RECIPIENTS OF**
2 **HIGH COST UNIVERSAL SERVICE SUPPORT.**

3 Section 254 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47
4 U.S.C. 254) is amended by adding at the end the following
5 new subsection:

6 “(m) AUTOMATIC ROAMING REQUIREMENT.—

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Any eligible telecommuni-
8 cations carrier under subsection (e) that receives, on
9 or after the end of the 180-day period that begins
10 on the date of enactment of the Universal Roaming
11 Act of 2008, Federal universal service support, as
12 described in paragraph (2), and any affiliate of such
13 eligible telecommunications carrier, shall be required
14 to offer automatic roaming services without terri-
15 torial limitation or restriction on just and reasonable
16 terms, consistent with sections 201 and 202, to a
17 carrier—

18 “(A) that requests such services on behalf
19 of its subscribers; and

20 “(B) that provides technically compatible
21 equipment to its subscribers.

22 “(2) SUPPORTED SERVICES.—The requirement
23 in paragraph (1) of this subsection shall only apply
24 to an eligible telecommunications carrier and such
25 carrier’s affiliate if either such carrier or such affil-
26 iate receives support for the provision of services for

1 rural, insular, and high cost areas supported under
2 subsection (c)(1), as modified pursuant to subsection
3 (c)(2).

4 “(3) OPT-OUT PROCEDURE.—

5 “(A) NOTIFICATION.—An eligible tele-
6 communications carrier required to offer auto-
7 matic roaming under paragraph (1) may notify
8 the Commission that the carrier shall cease to
9 seek and obtain universal service support with
10 regard to the provision of services for rural, in-
11 sular, and high cost areas.

12 “(B) OBLIGATIONS AND SUPPORT
13 CEASE.—Such carrier shall not be subject to
14 the requirements of paragraph (1) and shall
15 cease to receive universal service support with
16 regard to the provision of services for rural, in-
17 sular, and high cost areas at the end of the 90-
18 day period that begins on the date that the
19 Commission receives the notification under sub-
20 paragraph (A), provided that such carrier and
21 all of the affiliates of such carrier cease to re-
22 ceive such universal service support.

23 “(4) DISPUTE RESOLUTION.—The Commission
24 shall adjudicate any dispute about terms or technical

1 compatibility pursuant to existing Commission pro-
2 cedures implementing section 208.

3 “(5) NO RATE REGULATION.—Nothing in this
4 subsection shall be construed as prescribing par-
5 ticular rates for the provision of automatic roaming
6 services.

7 “(6) DEFINITION OF AUTOMATIC ROAMING.—
8 The term ‘automatic roaming’ shall have the mean-
9 ing given such term in the Commission’s regula-
10 tions.”.

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